Agony Endured Over Their First Productions.

WORK OF GREAT CRITICS.

the Authors - Macanlay and Croker-Shelley and Tennyson-Byron and Bronte-Hunt and Blackwood-Hazlett's Turn.

The world contains few spectacles more pitiable than that of the young ambitions author who, after incredible pains and labor has finished his first pains and labor has linished his lifet volume, has seen it go through the press and then appear on the book stalls only to receive a savage, slashing criticism from some publication which by a large class of literary persons is looked up to an authority in all such matters. Authors are the most sensitive people in the world, and withil as proud of the first offspring of their brains as a mo-ther of her first-born son. As a gen-eral thing they value their first publi-cations by the amount of labor, care and eral thing they value their first publications by the amount of labor, care and anxiety bestowed upon them, and, as no author is a proper judge of the merit of his own writings, they are, not unaturally disposed to regard them far more highly than their merits seem to warant. This being the case, they are disposed to look for equally invorable notice from others. They expect criticisms; that is, they say they do, but it is bighly probable that no author ever published his first book without, in his heart, expecting that the critics would wax enthusiastic over its pages, and if here and there they detected a fault or flaw they would be so pleased with the general tenor of the volume that they would pass lightly and kindly over its defects. When the contrary proves to be the case, as it frequently does, the author recovers from his fif of disgnat and dejection only to a settled hatred for critics and criticism, and equally to detest the one and loather the other. Not much experience with what some author has called the "harpies of literature" is required to induce a ready belief in one of the sayings of Disraeli, to the effect that the critics are those who, having themselves made a failure in liferature, are unwilling to see any one else succeed, and so descry all merit, no matter where or in whom it may be found.

THE GREAT CRITICS.

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